

Knowing of your interest in the federal budget and fiscal responsibility, I wanted to inform you that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid last night pulled the plug on a \$1.1 trillion “omnibus” spending bill, which would have combined separate appropriations measures into a single package to fund federal agencies during the current fiscal year (FY 2011). The 2,000-page bill was the latest example of the Democrat majority’s disregard for fiscal responsibility, having previously [failed to pass a budget](#) or enact a single one of the twelve annual spending measures. It included nearly 7,000 earmarks totaling over \$8 billion alongside \$1 billion in funding for Obamacare and a host of hidden special-interest provisions, representing the worst kind of big-spending, big-government porkfest that has been all too typical of Congress in recent years. I strongly opposed this measure that would have worsened our [debt crisis](#) by forcing billions of additional debt onto the backs of future generations.

Fortunately, thanks to strong opposition from fiscally conservative members of the Senate and an outcry among House conservatives and the American people, Democratic leaders were forced to abandon this destructive bill and instead pursue a short-term “continuing resolution” that will simply keep the government running at current funding levels. I believe we need to do much more to reduce spending and begin addressing our national debt. I have [supported plans to reduce spending to FY 2008 \(pre-“stimulus”\) levels](#) as an important first step.

This victory for the taxpayers would not have been possible if not for the American people sending a strong message that it’s time to stop the wasteful spending in Washington. House Republicans have pledged to end the practice of “Christmas tree” spending bills that contain billions of dollars in pork, along with extraneous provisions that have not been subjected to public scrutiny. As we move into a new Congress next year, I look forward to working with the new majority in the House of Representatives not only to block new spending like the omnibus bill, but also to begin the work of actually cutting federal spending back to more reasonable levels and getting our nation back on the path toward a balanced budget.